

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Hungary

SUBJECT Hungarian Canal System

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1. The following analysis was compiled from: a report of the Hungarian Ministry of Agriculture, No. 65/48/65; the Farmers' Information Bulletin (Magyar Mezőgazdaság) of 1 March 1948, 1 March 1949, and 1 August 1949; a report on a speech by Ministerial Counsellor Janos Dieter on the Hungarian Water-Geological Institute (Vízrajzi intézet); a government decree dated 27 May 1950, on the regulation of waterways (Országos Vízgazdász) No. 150/1950/8750. The Government Water Regulation Office is now responsible for the building of canals, the regulation of rivers, etc. This office is under the Ministry of Transportation, but certain sections are supervised by the Ministry of Agriculture.

By the end of 1941, the following canal systems were completed:

2. The canal system of Hortobágy: During the Three-Year Plan, the canal system from Tiszakeszi to the vicinity of Cserepes was further developed. The main canal now allegedly supplies the necessary water for 14,000 hectares, of which 9,000 are worked intensively. An additional 3,000 hectares are being afforested for climatic reasons. It is planned to replace the former pasture economy by intensified cattle breeding, stud-farming, etc. The pumping station is reversible so that excess water can be drained off in the spring. The new canal branches off to the north of the fish hatchery, near Cserepes-Tanya, in the direction of Kecskes-Tanya and is crossed by the railroad line Debrecen-Tiszafüred.

During 1949, the following estates were included in this irrigation system: Ohat, Hortobágypuszta, Matapuszta, Bivajhalom, Borsoslepos, Faluveghalma, Nagyivan, Nadudvar.

3. The Körös Valley Canal System: Tests on rice plantations were successfully made during the late thirties, and during World War II were intensified. In 1944, 5,352 yokes (one hectare equals 2.32 yokes) were planted with rice; in 1949, there were 11,668 yokes of rice. The largest increase took place in the district of Szolnok. The present canal system permits the irrigation of 12,150 yokes for rice plantations. The best results were shown in the areas of the Berettyó and of the Hármas Körös. A shortage of water during dry years already is noticeable within the communities of Mezötúr, Turkeve, Kisujszallas, Karcag, Devaványa, Gyoma, Endrőd, and Szekshalom.

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A canal connecting the Tisza and the Berettyo River is planned. The average production per yoke amounts to 1,500 kilos of rice worth 4,500 forints. The preparation and installation expenses for one yoke of rice plantation runs to approximately 3,500 forints.

4. The Sio-Kapos-Sarviz Canal System: Traffic could not use the canal because the lock near Siofok was too small. In 1942, a reconstruction of this lock was started. In October 1946, reconstruction work was started again and by the end of 1949, 15,000 cubic meters of concrete and stone had been used for a length of 500 meters; the old lock is being dismantled. According to the plan, an electricity plant will be completed by the end of 1950. So far, no confirmation of this has been received.
5. Other canal constructions: During 1949, the following constructions were completed:
 - a. A pumping-station near Udmezövasarhely, irrigating an area of approximately 2,000 yokes.
 - b. The big lock of the Raba Valley was completed, permitting irrigation of 820 more yokes in the communities: Pecöl, Kenes, Rabaköcöl, Nyöger, Mihályi, Csánig, Tompaladony, and Propac.
 - c. Small irrigation canals using water from the Danube were constructed near Acs, Nagytetyen, Ercsi, and Adony, irrigating approximately 1,000 yokes.
 - d. Small canals were constructed, using water from the Kőrös Creek, between Szentes and Magyartes, and irrigating approximately 500 yokes.
 - e. Near Csánadalota, a canal from the Maros supplies water for another 40 yokes.
 - f. Near Alsó-Zsolca, a canal from the Hernád River irrigates another 500 yokes.
 - g. Near Ercsi and Adony, a canal from the Danube supplies water for a new rice plantation on a 300-yoke field.

All irrigation systems mentioned above supply water only to sovkhoses and kolkhoses.

6. New state-owned rice plantations were established near the following villages: Leveleny, Tiszasas, Tiszasúly, Besenyszog, Jaszladany, Kötelek, Perjeshat, and Kisköre. In all there are approximately 1950 yokes. In the Kőrös area, 1,250 yokes were added for rice plantations. Hungary, by the end of 1949, had 15,000 yokes of artificially irrigated lands.
7. During 1949, 25 movable pumping-stations were manufactured following the irrigation of approximately 2,000 yokes additional.

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